18th August 1956]

voter was able to take out the ballot paper and hand it over to such persons who are prepared to take it after paying for it. Why not they now recommend to the Centre that the system of marking introduced by them during the recent local bodies and municipal elections may be tried during the ensuing general elctions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member evidently wants that we should recommend to the Election Commission that this system should be introduced throughout the country. There are some practical difficulties in the matter and the necessary preparations cannot be made within the short time available now. That is why, we have recommended to the Government of India to have this as an experimental measure in the City constituency.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: A large number of questions have been put on the floor of this House and opinions expressed on this question. While conveying their views to the Election Commission, have the Government conveyed also the views of the Members sitting on this side of the House that they are opposed to it and do not favour such a practice? 10-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: All the difficulties involved in this system also have been pointed out to the Election Commission. But it is only a question of comparative merits, a question of deciding which is better. As far as we are concerned I have absolutely no doubt that the marking system is better. But certain conditions have to be satisfied for that purpose such as a general level of literacy. That is why we have recommended that it may be tried first in the City of Madras.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Malayalee Non-Gazetted Officers transferred to Tamil districts

8 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of Malayalee Non-Gazetted Officers transferred to Tamil districts from the district of Malabar after 1st March 1956?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Government consider that the collection of the information will involve a good deal of time and labour which will not be commensurate with the purpose served.

Appointment of Deputy Superintendents of Police

9 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that six additional Deputy Superintendents of Police were appointed in South Arcot district recently and if so, the reasons therefor;

[18th August 1956

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to open new Police stations in the South Arcot district; and

(*c*) if so, where and when?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) Does not arise.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* LOCK-OUT IN THE MALABAR TILE FACTORY, FEROKE.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice under Rule 40 from the hon. Member Sri K. P. Gopalan calling attention of Hon. Minister for Agriculture on a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the dispute between the management of the Malabar Tile Factory, Feroke, and the Tile Workers' Union and the lock-out ordered by the management.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I bring this matter before the Government and request the Hon. Minister to make a statement on the subject. Since June 6th, 1956, the Malabar Tile Factory, Feroke, has declared a temporary lock-out. The manager of the factory is the President of the Tile Manufacturers' Association. Feroke is a tile manufacturing centre. There are about 4,000 workers engaged in that industry. Before declaring such a lock-out the management never gave notice to the workers, nor did they put up a notice on the notice board informing the workers of such a lock-out. This is the first point. The other point I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is that there is a dispute regarding this factory pending before the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, on an allegation that some workers were dismissed. Without ascertaining the opinion of the Honourable Court, the management has temporarily closed the factory. This is an illegal step and it violates section 23 of the Industrial Disputes Act. The reason advanced by the management is that there is not sufficient stock of clay in the factory. This argument will not hold good because in previous years there were less stocks of clay in the factory and more workers were given employment. In this particular case the manager did not want that the case regarding dismissal of workers should be put up before the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore. He also wanted to curb trade union activities in the factory. The management wants to see that the tile industry is declared a seasonal one by the Government by adopting this lock-out and forcing unemployment on labourers. Many representations have been made in this regard. Even the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, the President of the Union, made representations to the Government and the management. But the management did not care to settle the issue by mutual negotiations and by mutual understanding. Why I have brought this matter to the notice of the Government is this: The